



U.S. Department of Justice

Southern District of Indiana

United States Attorney

10 West Market Street

(317)226-6333

*Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

TDD (317)226-5438

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*FAX NUMBERS:
Criminal (317)226-6125
Administration (317)226-5176
Civil (317)226-5027
FLU (317) 226-6133
OCDETF (317)226-5953*

CONTACT PERSON:

Claudia Cummings
(317) 229-2477 office
(317) 590-7928 mobile

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**BATESVILLE MAN INDICTED
FOR FEDERAL CHILD PORN CRIMES**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, and Andrew G. Oosterbaan, Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, announced the indictment today of BENJAMIN SOMERS, age 23, of Batesville, Indiana for multiple child pornography offenses.

The charges were investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Indiana State Police, and the Batesville Police Department. The case arose from information provided to the Indiana State Police by the CyberTipLine of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The indictment charges SOMERS with 12 counts of transporting image files containing

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child pornography in interstate commerce by means of a computer on November 2, 2001.

SOMERS is also charged with three counts of distributing image files containing child pornography by means of a computer on March 19, 2002, March 30, 2002 and April 4, 2002.

Finally, SOMERS is charged with one count of possessing a computer containing numerous image files of child pornography on April 17, 2002.

The child pornography is alleged to have been produced through the use of actual minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and the material was allegedly a visual depiction of such conduct.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Steven DeBrotta and Trial Attorney Sara Gottovi of the Department of Justice, who are handling the prosecution for the United States, SOMERS could be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of up to 15 years for each count of transporting and receiving child pornography and up to five years for possessing child pornography. Each count also carries a term of supervised release following imprisonment of up to three years and a potential fine of up to \$250,000. In addition, the government is seeking the forfeiture of the child pornography and related computer equipment used in case.

The charges contained in these indictments are allegations only the defendant is presumed innocent until convicted at trial or by plea.

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